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## **Senate committee approves legislation creating incentives for Clean Corporate Citizens**

**LANSING** – Legislation to make achieving Clean Corporate Citizen designation more attractive to businesses was approved today by the Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee, announced Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

Senate Bill 355, sponsored by Hardiman, and a related bill would put the Clean Corporate Citizen program into statute and give C3 designees a one-time permit discount. Specifically, a participating company would receive a \$500 discount on the next permit fee it had to pay under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act as well as the Safe Drinking Water Act. Hardiman's legislation deals with the Safe Drinking Water Act portion of the effort.

“With this program, we’re helping companies that show strong environmental stewardship,” Hardiman said. “This gives them real benefits to further their efforts and help make them more competitive as well as encouraging more businesses to take part.”

Hardiman's legislation is part of the Senate Republican's New Economy initiative, which aims to improve the state's economy. In 2004, Michigan was the only state with a net job loss. Michigan continues to rank at or near the bottom for unemployment rates and significantly less than the nationwide average.

SB 354 now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

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